

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 10 have been amended.

The Action objects to claim 6 due to a perceived informality. The objection has been obviated by this Amendment, which has changed claim 6 as suggested in the Action, and changed its dependency.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for anticipation by U.S. Patent No. 6,768,058 to Pallapothu. Those rejections have been overcome by this Amendment, which has re-written claim 1 to recite, among other things, a core and a covering having cuts that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Pallapothu. For example, the application describes the core in connection with FIG. 3, and cuts in the covering are described in connection with FIG. 5 on pages 9 and 10.

It is believed the application is in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of same is respectfully requested. If any questions arise, the undersigned attorney may be telephoned at the number given below.

Potomac Patent Group PLLC
P.O. Box 270
Fredericksburg, VA 22404
Tel: 919 928 9979

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Respectfully submitted,

/Michael G. Savage/

Michael G. Savage
Registration No. 32,596